

Amendments to the Claims: The claims below replace all prior versions and listings:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently amended) A method for updating firmware in an electronic device of a system, the method comprising:

generating updating information having a lifecycle for updating the firmware to a particular version of the firmware, in a generation environment;

saving the generated updating information in a storage;

communicating the saved updating information to a distribution environment comprising a network that distributes the updating information to one or more electronic devices;

populating the updating information in an update store that acts as a repository of update packages whose lifecycle may be managed; and

managing the lifecycle of the updating information by changing status information for the lifecycle of the updating information, and enabling and disabling distribution of the updating information according to the status information for the lifecycle of the updating information, wherein the status information includes specifying a user of the electronic device that will receive the update package and when to start dispensing the update package.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 12 wherein the method further comprises packaging the saved updating information before communicating it to the distribution environment.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 12 wherein the distribution environment comprises an updating storage and a server.

15. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 12 wherein the method further comprises:

receiving requests for updating information;
retrieving the requested updating information from the update store;
facilitating downloads of the requested updating information;
verifying reception of the downloaded updating information; and
utilizing the downloaded updating information to update firmware in the electronic device.

16. (Currently amended) A system that facilitates updating of at least one of firmware and software in electronic devices, wherein the system supports lifecycle management of firmware updating information, the system comprising:

a network that distributes updating information having a lifecycle for updating the at least one of firmware and software to a particular version to the electronic devices, the network having a lifecycle management component that manages the lifecycle of the updating information by changing status information for the lifecycle of the updating information, and enabling and disabling distribution of the updating information according to the status information for the lifecycle of the updating information, the network comprising an update store comprising a repository of update packages having lifecycles managed by the lifecycle management component, wherein the status information includes specifying a user of the electronic device that will receive the update package and when to start dispensing the update package.

17. (Original) The system according to claim 16 wherein the network further comprises a management console employed for lifecycle management of the updating information.

18. (Original) The system according to claim 16 wherein lifecycle management comprises at least one of:

- facilitating loading of the updating information;
- facilitating deleting of the updating information; and
- facilitating editing of status information of the updating information.

19. (Original) The system according to claim 16 wherein the network further comprises a lifecycle management component that manages the lifecycle of the electronic devices.

20. (Original) The system according to claim 19 wherein the network further comprises a management console employed for lifecycle management of the electronic devices.

21. (Original) The system according to claim 19 wherein lifecycle management of the electronic devices comprises at least one of:

- provisioning of the electronic devices;
- determining change of ownership of the electronic devices;
- determining change of subscription of the electronic devices; and
- determining when an electronic device is no longer in use in the system.

22. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 16 wherein the electronic devices maintain statistics information regarding a total number of distributed updating information and a time of distribution of the updating information and communicate the statistics information to a server.

23. (Original) The system according to claim 22 wherein the lifecycle management component records the total number of distributed updating information and the time of distribution of the updating information for each distributed updating information to the electronic devices.

Claims 24-25. (Cancelled).

26. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein a lifecycle management system causes a change in the status information for the lifecycle of the updating information stored in a network that communicates the updating information to the one or more electronic devices.

27. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein a particular level of system operator authority is required to change the status information for the lifecycle of the stored updating information and to specify a time when the change of the status information is to occur.

28. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein the method further comprises:

 updating state information for the particular version of updating information in a database of lifecycle information for update information.

29. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein the method further comprises:

 updating state information in a database of lifecycle information for the one or more electronic devices.

30. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein lifecycle management of updating information comprises one or more of: creating updating information, deleting updating information, editing updating information, changing state information for updating information, specifying recipients of distributed updating information, and/or specifying a time to begin distributing update information.

31. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein updating information comprises an update package.

32. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 16, wherein updating information comprises an update package.

33. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 16, wherein lifecycle management of updating information comprises one or more of: creating updating information, deleting updating information, editing updating information, changing state information for updating information, specifying recipients of distributed updating information, and/or specifying a time to begin distributing update information.

34. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 16, wherein lifecycle management of electronic devices comprises one or more of: provisioning of an electronic device, determining a change of electronic device ownership, determining a change of a subscription for an electronic device, and/or determining that an electronic device is no longer in use.